(1) Mecca, Saudi Arabia — April 25, 1964

بسم الله الرحمن الرحيم

كل عام وحضرتكم بخير

من _____ في _____ سنة ١٣ _____ هـ الموافق _____ سنة ١٩ _____ م

حضرة محترم المقام السيد _____ حفظه الله آمين

I have just completed my pilgrimage (Hajj) here to the Holy City of Mecca, the Holiest City on earth, which is absolutely forbidden for non-Muslims to even rest their eyes upon. This pilgrimage is the most important event in the life of all Muslims, and there were over 226,000 who are here right now from outside of Arabia. From Turkey came the largest contingent, around 50,000, in over 600 busses. This refutes western propaganda that Turkey is turning away from Islam.

I know of only two others who have actually made the actual Hajj to Mecca from America, and both of them are West Indians who were also converted to Islam. Mr Elijah Muhammad, two of his sons, and a couple of his followers visited Mecca outside of the Hajj season, and their visit is known as the "Omra," or Lesser Pilgrimage. It is con-

* توزيع محلات عبدالعزيز سرزا - مكة المكرمة - شارع المدعى - جدة : سوق الندى *

(2) sidered a blessing in the Muslim World even to make the "Omra". (1)

I very much doubt that ten American-born citizens have ever visited Mecca, and I do believe that I might be the first American-born Negro to make the actual Hajj itself. I'm not saying this to boast, but only to point out what a wonderful accomplishment and blessing it is, and also to enable you to be in a better position intellectually to evaluate it in its proper light, and then your own intelligence can place it in its proper perspective.

This pilgrimage to the Holiest of Cities has not only been a unique experience for me, but one which has made me the recipient of numerous unexpected blessings beyond my wildest dreams.

Shortly after my arrival in Jeddah I was visited by Prince Muhammad Faisal, who informed me that his illustrious father, His Excellency Crown Prince Faisal, the Ruler of Arabia, had decreed that I be a State Guest. What has happened since then would take several books to describe, but through the generosity of His Excellency I have since stayed in the best Hotels in Jeddah, Mecca and Mina — with a private car, a driver, a religious guide (Mualem), and many servants at my disposal.

Over

(3)

بسم الله الرحمن الرحيم

من _____ فى _____ سنة ـ١٣ هـ الموافق _____ سنة ـ١٩ م

حضرة محترم المقام السيد _____ حفظه الله آمين

Never have I been so highly honored, and never has such honor and respect made me feel more humble and unworthy. Who would believe that such blessings could be heaped upon an American Negro !!! Here in the Muslim World, when one accepts Islam one ceases to be either white or Negro. Islam recognizes all men as Men. Because the people here in Arabia believe that God is One, they believe that all people are also One, and that all are brothers and sisters of One Human Family.

I have never before witnessed such sincere hospitality and the practice of true brotherhood as I have seen it here in Arabia. In fact, what I have seen and experienced on this pilgrimage has forced me to "rearrange" much of my thought-pattern, and to toss aside some of

* توزيع محلات عبدالعزيز مشرا ـ مكة المكرمة شارع المدعى ـ حدة : سوق الندى *

My previous conclusions. This "adjustment to reality" wasn't too difficult for me to undergo, because, despite my firm convictions in whatever I believe, I have always tried to keep an open mind, which is absolutely necessary to reflect the flexibility that must go hand-in-hand with anyone whose intelligent quest for truth never comes to an end.

There are Muslims here of all colors and ranks from every part of this earth. During the past seven days here in Mecca (Jeddah, Mina, + Mustalifa), while undergoing the rituals of the Hajj, I have eaten from the same plate, drank from the same glass, and slept on the same bed or rug — not only with Kings, potentates + other forms of rulers — but also with fellow-Muslims whose skin was the whitest of white, whose eyes were the bluest of blue, and whose hair was the blondest of blond — but I could look into their eyes and see that they regarded all of us as the same (Brothers), because their belief in One God (Allah) had actually removed the "white" from their mind, which automatically changed their attitude and their behavior toward people of other colors. Their belief in the Oneness of God has made them so different from American whites, that their color played no part in my mind in all of my dealings with them. Their sincere submission

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حضرة محترم المقام السيد _____ حفظه الله آمين

to One God and their acceptance of all people as equal makes them (the so-called "whites") also accepted as equals into the brotherhood of Islam along with the non-whites.

If white Americans could accept the religion of Islam, if they could accept the Oneness of God (Allah), they too could then sincerely accept the Oneness of Man, and cease to measure others always in terms of their "differences in color." And with racism now plaguing America like an incurable cancer, all thinking-Americans should be more receptive to Islam as an already-proven solution to the race problem.

The American Negro can never be blamed for his racial "animosities," because his are only reactions, or defense-mechanisms which his subconscious intelligence has forced him to erect

توزيع محلات عبدالعزيز مرزا - مكة المكرمة : شارع المدعى - جدة : سوق النذي

(6)

against the conscious racism practiced (initiated against Negroes in America) by American whites. But as America's insane obsession with racism leads her up the suicidal path, nearer to the precipice that leads to the bottomless pits below, I do believe that whites of the younger generation, in the colleges + universities, through their own young, less-hampered intellect, will see the "Handwriting on the Wall" and turn for spiritual salvation to the religion of Islam, and force the older generation to turn with them.--- this is the only way ~~the~~ white America can ward off the inevitable disaster that racism always leads to, and Hitler's Nazi Germany was best proof of this.

Now that I have visited Mecca, and gotten my own personal spiritual path adjusted to where I can better understand the depth of my religion (Islam), I shall be leaving in a couple days to continue my journey into our African Fatherland. Allah willing, by May 20th before my return to New York, I shall have visited Sudan, Kenya, Tanganyika, Zanzibar, Nigeria, Ghana + Algeria. You may use this letter in any way you desire.

El-Hajj Malik El-Shabazz
(Malcolm X)